

The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

C/o 641 Kismet Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115-1114



AMATEUR RADIO: WHEN NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FAIL!



W3IIM

R

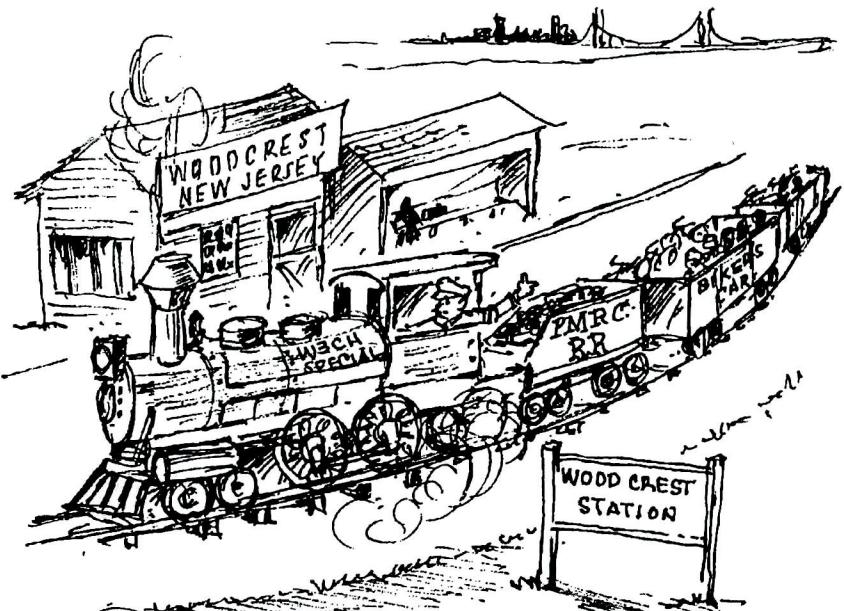
JACK HARING
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Blurb



SEPTEMBER 1998



MS 150 Special Comes To Town
"All Aboard"

Public Service Since 1949



VOLUME 48
NUMBER 9

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

Internet Web site: <http://www.comcat.com/pmr>

E-mail: pmrc@comcat.com

2-meter repeater: 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but transmits 91.5 Hz.)

Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:

Southampton 131.8 Hz—Center City 103.5 Hz—Lansdale 114.8 Hz—Broomall 85.4 Hz

70-cm repeater: 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex: 147.51 MHz

24-hour club information at W3AA: 215-448-1139

STATIONS

W3AA - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

W3AA packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3AA e-mail: w3aa@fi.edu

W3EM - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz repeater - Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3CH, Russ Stafford, 14 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403; 610-631-3401 x902
russ@hdj.com—w3ch@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

VICE PRESIDENT: AA3EP, Charlie Weigand, 91 Moyer Road, Pottstown, PA 19464; 610-323-1050
aa3ep@aol.com—aa3ep@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam

SECRETARY: N3PVO, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038; 215-884-5518
n3pvo@aol.com

TREASURER: K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Drexler, PA 19025; 215-542-5991
k2bn@agtannenbaum.com

COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN; **Audit:** KE3OP; **Awards:** AA3EP; **Blurb folding:** WB3KOJ & WB3KOH; **Budget:** K3KUD; **Directory:** WB3KOJ; **DX:** NU3Y; **Education:** W3CH; **Emerg. Coor.:** N3XKE; **Field Day:** WU3I; **Membership:** W3LEN; **Net Control:** KB3IV; **Program:** AA3EP; **Public Service:** AA3EP; **Publicity:** N3IEI; **Refreshments:** W3AOK; **Repeater:** W3BBB; **Skywarn:** N3LCV; **Special Events:** N3WCO; **Sunshine:** WU3I; **Youth:** KE3ZY; **TVI:** W3VVS; **VE Program:** ND3Q; **W3AA:** KB3IV; **Welcome:** K3CJ.

NET SCHEDULE

Sunday	09:30	147.03	MHzFM	"Sunday Morning 2 Meter Net
	10:00	28.393	MHzSSB	"10-on-10 Net" (effective 9/6/98)
	10:20	3.993	MHzSSB	75 Meter Net
Tuesday	20:00	147.03	MHzFM	CW Practice Net

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Greg Malone - N3FSC
- 03 Marian Fox - WA3YJR
- 05 Tony Straka - KA3SVT
- George Walmsley - W3DO
- 06 Len Kovnat - WB3JUA
- 08 Al Bubeck - K3GNM
- Bill Hagerty - AA3BB
- 13 Marge Concordia (XYL WB3KAC)
- 15 Bob Freer - W3YLT
- 17 Vickie Swanson (XYL N3GLH)
- 20 Jack Spratt - N3ALW
- Michael Taraborrelli - N3TRO
- 21 Millie Graf (XYL N3JDM)
- Marion Lester (XYL W3FWI)
- Cindy Rice (XYL N3SHI)
- 23 Patricia Mannio (XYL WA3NSP)
- Russ Stafford - W3CH
- 26 Margie Guy (XYL N3WPE*)
- Paul Ives - V3SMA
- 30 Anna Davis (XYL KE3RL*)

*indicates new member 1997-98

PHIL-MONT
BIRTHDAYS
&
TID-BYTES

Don Gordon
WB3KOJ

MEMBERSHIP STATS.

168	FULL
18	FAMILY
9	YOUTH (under 17 yrs)
3	HONORARY
1	PENDING
199	

UPCOMING DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

With the October Blurb you will receive the 1998 Directory Supplement. It will contain information on new members plus corrections and additions that I have received during the last six months. If you have any changes that you would like included, I must have them by September 15th. In addition, the directory will feature a "mailing list" of PMRC members who have sent me their packet and/or E-Mail addresses. If you would like to be listed, send your information to me at my e-mail address: wb3koj@comcat.com or on Packet at wb3koj@w3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam. Or you can send it via snail-mail at the address in the directory.

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact Mike Tannenbaum - K2BN, for details.

"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy 

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Net Control stations should read the following announcements before asking if there are any more announcements for the net.

- VE testing will be held on September 3rd at 6:30 P.M. The 1998 ARRL VE test fee is \$6.35, but there is no charge for the Novice test.
- Registration forms are available on the club's Web site for the MS150 City to Shore Bike Tour, held on September 26 and 27.
- On September 2nd the Director's meeting will be held in Eagleville at the home of W3CH and N3WCO.
- The September General meeting will include a discussion of the future direction of the club and its supported activities. This is a very important meeting. All members should plan to attend.

Call
1-800-32-NEW-HAM
 for free information for
 prospective hams

The ARRL is more than just
 a magazine
 subscription!

**"EXPERIENCE TEACHES YOU TO RECOGNIZE A MISTAKE
 WHEN YOU'VE MADE IT AGAIN."**
 (UNKNOWN)

The PREZ SEZ



Ciao Phil-Monsters! I must say that honeymooning in Europe was GREAT! Chris, N3WCO and I had the most fantastic time. The beauty of the countryside as well as the cities was just breathtaking. It was sad to come home in a way, but I think we both knew it was just about time <big smile>.

Needless to say, I missed the August Board meeting. The report I got back from Charlie, AA3EP was that it went smoothly and that we are buying a second Astron power supply for our main repeater site. This is a very good thing. Well, it's September already and that can only mean one thing on your Ham calendar. What, you say? Well the MS-150 City to Shore Bike Tour, of course. Did you sign up yet? If not, you should do so right away, because time is run-

ning out. It's painless and the form can be downloaded from our PMRC website or just let Charlie, AA3EP know. I'm sure he can get a form right over to you.

Just a reminder that we start General meetings again this month. This is a very important month and should not be missed. The future of W3AA as we know it, as well as the future of Phil-Mont is at hand. This is a MUST make it night.

Also, don't forget that our Ten at Ten net will be moving this month to its new home in the Novice/Tech plus band. So, most of our members will now be able to check in and enjoy our low band 10 meter net.

Arrivaderci! and 73 de Russ, W3CH n

Blurb STAFF

Editor: Dean M. Spare, N3TAL
 908 Tyson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111
 215-745-3031
 n3tal@erols.com

Artist: N3QIE (488 issue)
Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
 Deadline: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy must be in the hands of the Editor at the General meeting of the month before publication.

UPCOMING

Sept. 2 Directors' Meeting at W3CH & N3WCO Eagleville

Sept. 3 License Examinations at The Franklin Institute

Sept. 9 General Meeting

HAMFESTS

Sep 12 Delaware - Lehigh ARC Schnecksville, PA

Sep 13 Foundation for Amateur Radio Gaithersburg, MD

Sep 19 South Jersey RA Mt. Holly, NJ

Sep 20 York Hamfest York, PA

Sep 26 Delaware Valley RA Trenton, NJ

Oct 4 Pack Rats Warrington, PA

Oct 18 RF Hill ARC Sellersville, PA

Oct 18 Foothills ARC Greensburg, PA

Oct 25 Mason-Dixon Hamfest Westminster, MD

"Beware of the man who does not drink"
(proverb)

VE Test Locations

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1998 test fee is \$6.35; there is no charge for a Novice test.

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
215-879-0505 day, 215-448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAWR, NJ**
Diane Nafis
609-227-6281
- **BRISTOL**
George LeNoir
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA**—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)
Russ Stafford, W3CH
610-631-3401 x902
- **NORRISTOWN**
Raymond Patton
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**
Joseph Burgess
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**
Jeff DePolo
215-898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMISTER**
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**
Giselle Walls
302-478-2757

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050
aa3ep@aol.com
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

Sept 26-27
MS150—City to Shore Bike Tour

QSO Parties

State QSO parties are a low-pressure way to sample competitive operating. Many enthusiastic DX contesters got their start in state QSO parties. Other people don't enjoy the big contests at all, but they do get a kick out of working their friends in the state events. These contests are a good way to build your Worked-All-States count, add some counties to your County Hunters List, and develop your operating skills and knowledge of propagation.

If you enjoy state QSO parties, why not invite a new ham — perhaps someone who is not on HF, over to your shack to get some first-hand experience with you as Elmer. Check your QST for schedules.
(atdnews@bfdin.com) □



Come to a Phil-Mont meeting,
and see what all the talk is about!

A Brief History of The Blurb

Originally "THE TVI RETREAT"

NOVEMBER 1949

The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB was formed by six charter members: W3s AAG, MXP, OQI, PMD, PXY, QQH (BBB).

DECEMBER 1950

The earliest surviving edition of "THE TVI RETREAT" (so named by W3SGR), in our archives, is assumed to be the December 1950 issue. (They weren't very careful about dating them back then!) The word BLURB actually appeared in that very issue when the editor (W3PXY) made the statement "... Will try to get this blurb out once a month." [We're still trying!-ed]

JANUARY 1955

The first official use of the name "THE BLURB" appeared on the cover of THE TVI RETREAT. Both names continued to appear (TVI RETREAT on page one of each issue, and THE BLURB on the cover) until the July issue of the same year, when the name THE TVI RETREAT was finally retired.

JANUARY 1958

Sam Kuncevich began doing the cover artwork. [488 issues so far, and still counting!-ed]

JANUARY 1962

The first cartoon entitled "Sam's Corner" appeared.

BLURB EDITORS

Call	From	To	Issues	Total Issues
W3PXY	12/50?	01/59	98	George King..... 98
W3QZO-1	02/59	01/60	12	Bob Thomas
W3ZPP	02/60	04/62	27	Charlie Stouth..... 27
K3KUD-1	05/62	06/65	38	Bob Schmilewski
W3CDY	07/65	05/67	23	Lloyd Sherman..... 23
K3KUD-2	06/67	07/68	14	Bob Schmilewski
W3QZO-2	08/68	06/69	11	Bob Thomas..... 23
WA3CNI	07/69	07/69	01	Sam Kuncevich*..... 01
K3JQC	08/69	12/70	17	Anne Hecht..... 17
K3TKZ	01/71	06/73	30	Ed Jars..... 30
W3PST-1	07/73	02/76	32	Woody Haldeman
K3KUD-3	03/76	02/81	60	Bob Schmilewski..... 112
W3PST-2	03/81	05/89	98	Woody Haldeman..... 130
W3IIM	06/89	08/98	111	Jack Haring..... 111
				572

*Special issue consisting entirely of Sam's drawings.

Hey Ol' Timers!

Your Archives person would appreciate receiving early editions of "THE TVI RETREAT". Most early issues (1949-51) are missing. Please contact W3IIM.

Minutes

AUGUST DIRECTORS' MEETING
Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The August Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:09 p.m. by Charlie (AA3EP). The following Officers and Directors' were in attendance: Charlie (AA3EP), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Jim (W3BBB), Steve (WU3I), Bill (W3GQD), Gene (N3XKE) and Al (W3STW). The following committees reported:

TREASURER - Mike (K2BN) reported we sent \$500.00 out for the deposit for the club picnic. We did not receive any money this month and we only had 1 ARRL renewal. The total disbursements for the month were \$329.51 leaving a net change in funds of -\$827.51. On the other side we received \$1100.00 from the sale of equipment. Our total funds went down \$223.53. Between the checking, savings and the Vanguard account we have money in the bank.

REPEATER - Jim (W3BBB) reported the weather receiver has been programmed and will be installed soon. The time-out will be set for 2-3 minutes. The audio will be set low enough not to interfere with any QSO's. Also the Astron RM 35M power supply has been purchased and put in place. A motion was made and approved to buy another. The old power supplies will be sold.

BLURB - Jack (W3IIM) proposed for discussion an internet domain name for the club. The proposed name was phil-mont.org. The cost for this would be

\$35.00 a year. After a discussion, a motion was made and approved to obtain the domain name. Jack (W3IIM) agreed to do the follow though.

PUBLIC SERVICE - Charlie (AA3EP) proposed for discussion and approval the subject of making a donation to the MS-150 City to Shore Bikethon to have the club logo on the shirts. The donation for this would be \$50.00. A motion was made and approved.

W3AA - Steve (WU3I) reported the Drake R8 was sent out for alignment.

NEW BUSINESS - Jack (W3IIM) approached the subject of backup power for the repeater. During a recent storm the power to the repeater was off for several hours. It was asked why we are not tied into a backup power source in emergency situations. It was hoped when the repeater site changed we would have backup power available. Jim (W3BBB) agreed to look into the situation further. Jack (W3IIM) read an email received from teachers at the Lancaster Partnership Charter School, a new middle school in Lancaster. The students will be involved in radio telecommunications and will be visiting the Franklin Institute the beginning of September and would like any help the club may offer. Steve (WU3I) offered to

see MINUTES continued on page 7

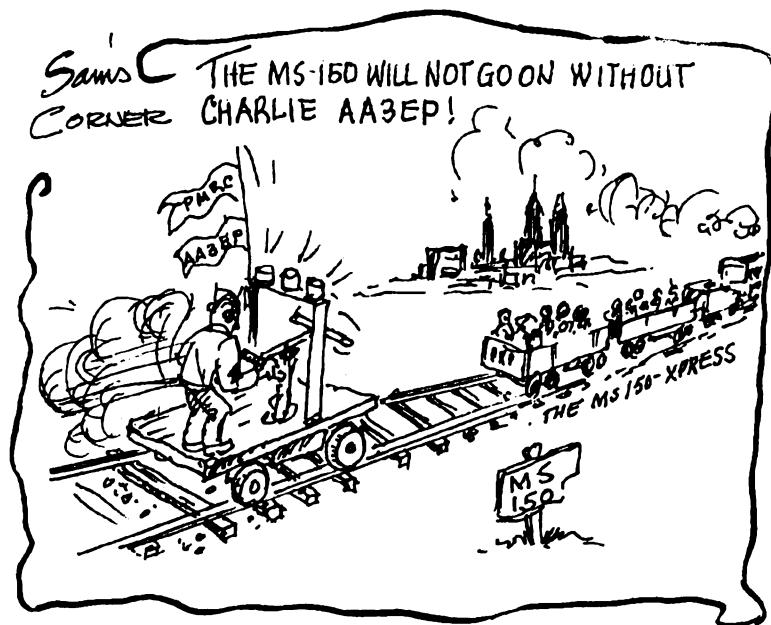
World Amateur Radio Day Set For September 19

"Communicating worldwide for Three Quarters of a Century" is the theme of this year's World Amateur Radio Day, set for September 19th. The event marks the first two-day transoceanic Amateur Radio contact between French station 8AB and American stations 1XAM and 1MO on November 27, 1923.

The historic contacts ushered in the era of worldwide shortwave communication IARU Region One broadcast a special program on shortwave that races the early history of shortwave communication and the contributions hams have made to the development of radio science and the understanding of HF propagation.

The program will air to North America on September 19 at 2100 UTC on 15025 kHz.

For more information, contact Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS5AKV, e-mail hans@intekom.co.za.



Federal Communications Commission

1270 Fairfield Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

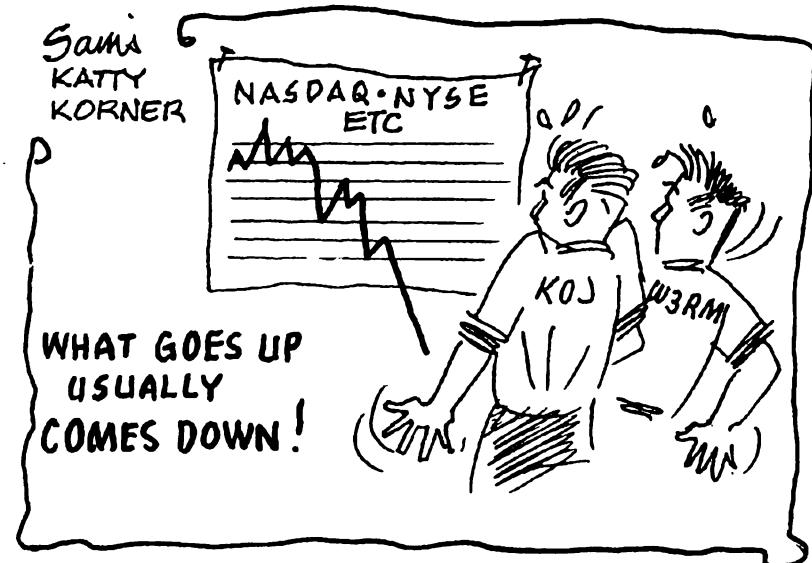
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>

License Information

888-225-5322—M-F 0800-1630

Fax-On-Demand

202-418-0177



TICKETS continued from page 9

and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method. □

GOODIES

2-RCA fm rcrs 25-54 mhz4 freq solid
state 110v \$20.00
1-Heath IM 4180 fm deviation mtr man...\$50.00
1-Marconi TF 1066b/l signal gen man \$150.00
1-VHF Eng 2 mtr rptr wi 20 amp ps.....\$300.00
1-HP 606A sig gen 50 kc-65 mhz man ..\$75.00
1-RCA rptr cabinet, 2 dr f & r, top mtr panel free
2-Prodline 7/8 hardline 1-145',1-125' free
1-Craftsman 12" radial arm saw man \$300.00
1-Pagel vhf counter preamp\$20.00
1-Motorola S1063A dc multimeter\$15.00
1-Lambda LME5 5 v@ 31A.....\$20.00
1-Lambda LME5 5 v@ 20A.....\$15.00
1-Lambda LM234 0-7 v@ 8.3A free
1-Lambda LMD150 150 vfree
1-Lambda LMG20 13.6 v @ 30A metered
.....\$75.00

1-Transitron SPC 860 13.8 v @ 22A metered
.....\$75.00
1-Astron RS35M 13.8 v @ 30A metered
.....\$105.00

1-Kraft KC-3 joystick (new-IBM & Apple)
.....\$10.00

1-Hayes 2400 pocket modemfree

Contact Jim Spencer W3BBB (215-362-5172)
or W3QV rptr 147.03/63.

ms 150 files are now available for
downloading from the club's
web site at:
www.phil-mont.org/ms150

Solar Flux

With solar flux over 150 and fall
soon upon us, strong 10 meter
openings cannot be too far away. 15
meters should be stronger as well, now
that the solar cycle seems to be moving
up again. ☼



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

CALL:	K2BL
NAME:	Carol Hutkin
NICKNAME:	Carol
CLASS:	Extra
ADDRESS:	906 Lucas Ln Voorhees, NJ 080434
OCCUPATION:	
HOME PHONE:	
BUSINESS PHONE:	
E-MAIL:	K2BL@juno.com
PACKET:	
COMMITTEES:	VE

DX Report

Joe Pearlstein, NU3Y

FT/X - Kerguelen

FT5XN can often be found between 14.185 and 14.200 from 1100 UTC. QSL via F6PEN. Hey, it's a slow summer! The bands are reasonable, but I don't have any news on anything particularly unique except for the above.

Happy Hunting! ☼

FCC Streamlines Novice and Tech Plus Tickets

The FCC has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place—Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing

and testing, but offered no specific changes. And the FCC proposed to permit Advanced class licensees to administer amateur exams up through General class. The proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10.

Given the December 1 comment and January 15 reply comment deadlines, it's likely that the issues the NPRM raises won't be resolved until well into next year. In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC pointed to what it called "an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus," and asserted that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. The FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be

granted. For examination purposes, current examination elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The proposal would eliminate the 5 WPM code test, Element 1A, as a required element for any class of license, while retaining references to it elsewhere in the rules. This has left hams wondering exactly what the Commission intends. The elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus license classes and Element 1A as a requirement appear to effectively raise the bar for most future applicants wanting HF operating privileges, unless the FCC ultimately reduces Morse code requirements.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200-W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output. The FCC opened the door to comments on all aspects of Morse code testing

from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system—

See TICKETS continued on page 13

1998

SEPTEMBER

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	2 DIRECTOR'S MEETING at W3CH & N3WCO	3 161st LICENSE EXAM Session at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Door close at 6:30 p.m. sharp!	4	5
6 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3PWG Full Moon ☽	7 Labor Day	8 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3AOK	9 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30.	10	11	12 <i>Blurb Deadline!</i> Last Quarter ☾
13 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3STW Hamfest - Gaithersburg, MD	14	15 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	16	17 Reggie Jackson hit his 500 Home Run in 1984	18	19 Hamfest - Mt Holly, NJ
20 2M NCS WA3NSP 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS N3JDM New Moon ☽	21 Rosh Hashanah	22 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP	23	24	25	26 Hamfest - Trenton, NJ
27 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS KB3IV First Quarter ☽	28 Yom Kippur	29 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3AOK	30			